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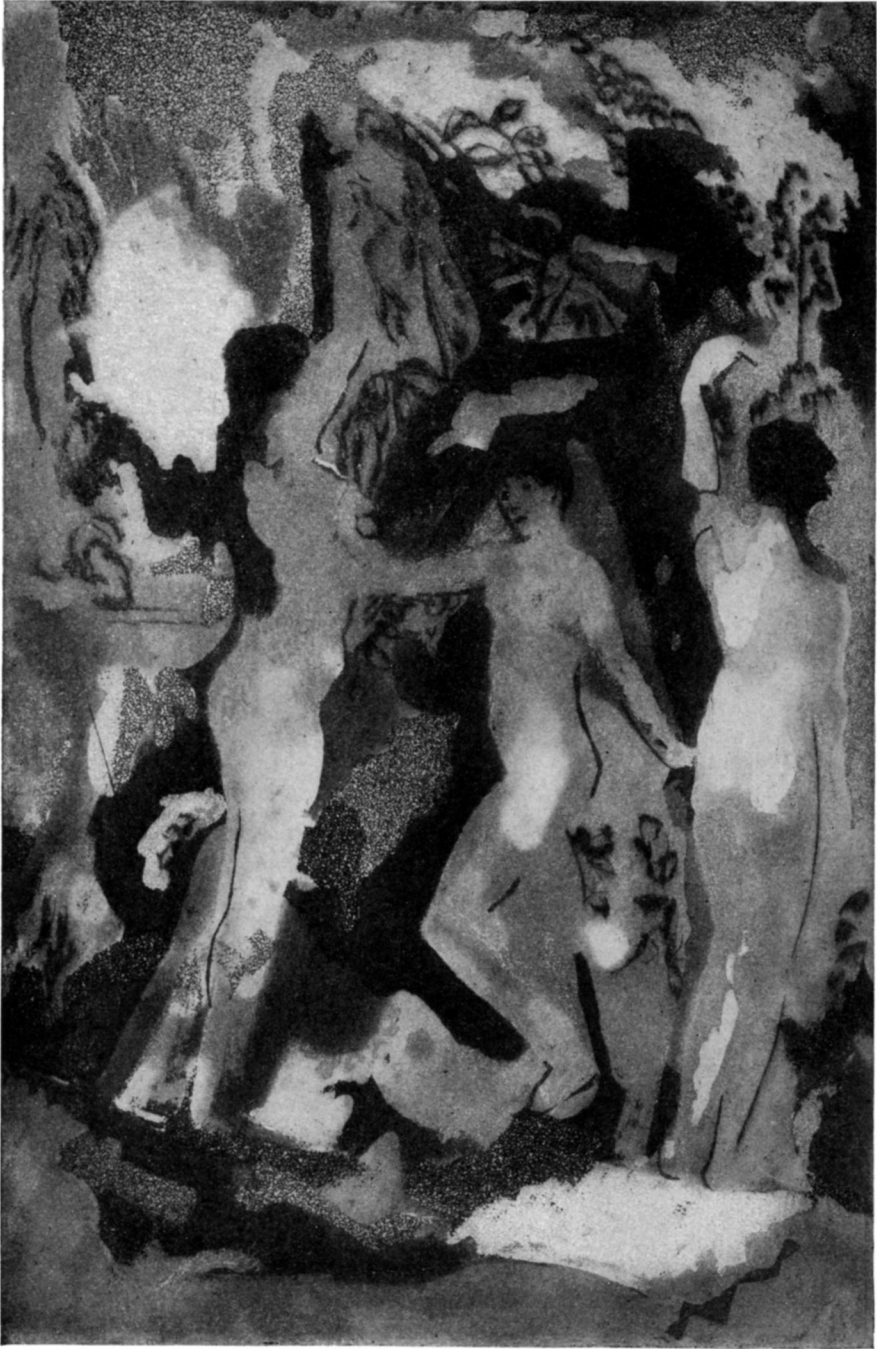
THE GROWTH OF EXTENSION WORK

WITH its recent exhibition of color prints and photographs, held in New York in the Russell Sage Foundation Building, the American Federation of Arts inaugurated what it proposes to make a countrywide educational campaign for "art in every home"—whereby appropriate objects of art at moderate prices may be placed within reach of all American homes. The prints, which were excellent reproductions of paintings and sculpture, both American and European, represented a careful selection from several thousands of subjects at prices ranging from thirty cents to eighteen dollars each. The exhibition will later be circulated throughout the country.

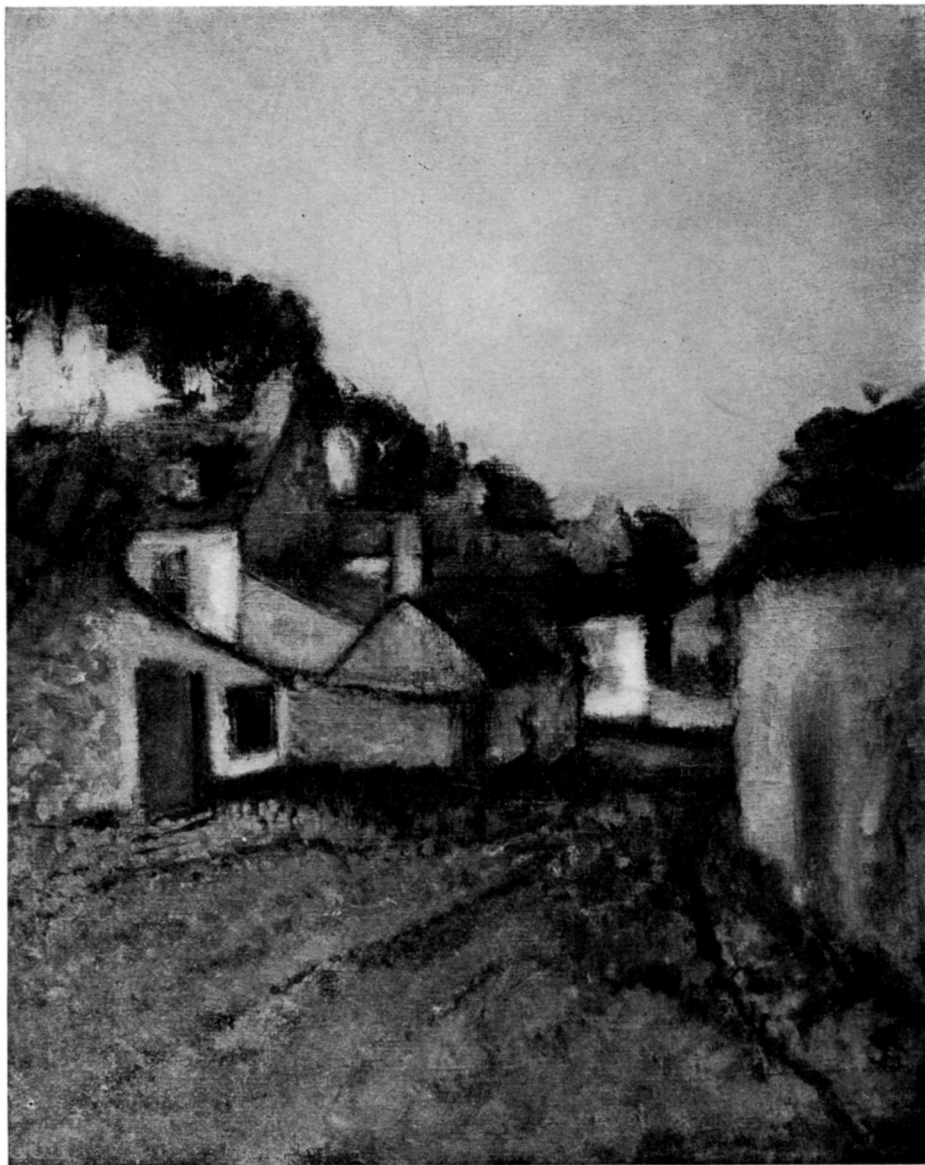
For the past three years the Art Institute's interest in a similar art education campaign has been expressed in its Extension Department, which was originated to promote in the Middle West the appreciation and understanding of the fine arts in their relation to the building and decoration of the home, and ultimately to create a wider and deeper interest in all art. At first the Institute worked in close coöperation with painters only, whose works were lent by them to illustrate the lectures of the Extension Department. Gradually the scope of the work was enlarged, until the interest of interior decorators, designers, manufacturers, and business men was enlisted; and finally the "Better Homes Institute" was inaugurated to carry the message to the Mississippi Valley and to an even wider field if the response should justify the expansion.

It was firmly believed that there were scores of towns in which lay dormant the desire for better and more artistic houses and for better and more beautiful communities and that an active effort for these improvements could easily be stimulated. This faith has been more than justified by the tremendous success of the institutes which have been conducted in more than seventy communities. In each town a civic organization—the chamber of commerce, a business association, a local newspaper, or even an individual business firm—contracts for five days of the "Better Homes Institute," and a lecturer with full equipment is sent to conduct the lectures and exhibitions.

Practical demonstration, in so far as is possible, has been the key note of the project since its inception. Over a ton of materials, consisting of twenty paintings, a three-wall collapsible room, movable fire-place, windows, doors, house plans, drawings, and photographs, is expressed to each town for use in the lectures. The furniture, rugs, draperies, and lamps needed to complete the furnishings are supplied by the local merchants. As a rule there are two sessions of the institute a day, comprising lectures on planning and planting the home grounds, illustrated by an architectural exhibit and crayon sketching; on building comfort, beauty, and economy into a house, illustrated by an architectural exhibit; on interior decorating, using furniture, rugs, and other furnishings; dramatizations of home furnishing; and lectures dealing with local civic problems.



AQUATINT IN EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS, PRINTS, AND PAINTINGS BY ARTHUR B. DAVIES



LANDSCAPE—BY EDGAR DEGAS
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

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YOUNG WOMAN COMBING HER HAIR
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY AUGUSTE RENOIR

The Extension Department has received many testimonials recording the success of the "Better Homes Institutes." Demands for them have come from far and near, and the program has been repeated in some cities. The appeal is by

no means to a restricted community: Cities, colleges, and small towns have been visited with equal success. Engagements, besides those given in Chicago, have been filled in St. Louis, Kansas City, Little Rock, Memphis, Fort



A MOUNTAIN ROAD
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY ADAM EMORY ALBRIGHT

Wayne, Winnipeg, Canada, and in scores of smaller places. In the near future Detroit and Toronto are to be visited, and institutes will be held in fully half a dozen state capitals during the annual state fairs.

Ross Crane, head of the Extension Department and the originator of the "Better Homes Institute" idea, has been most active in conducting many of the institutes. He has succeeded in convincing the business man in every community that better homes are as important to business as they are to art. Hunt Cook, the art critic and lecturer, formerly of the Swarthmore (Pa.) Chautauqua, and Herbert D. Hemenway, author of works

on gardening, city beautifying, and education, have been added to the Extension Department staff as institute conductors. Mrs. P. A. Spaulding is the manager of the Extension Department, and through her office at the Art Institute all contracts are made.

APRIL AND MAY EXHIBITIONS

DURING the month of April—the period of the Scammon lectures, which are to be delivered by Joseph Pennell—etchings, lithographs, and a few drawings by Mr. Pennell will be exhibited in the Print Room. The April exhibition planned for